

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 GSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-11 /083 W

----- 121947

R 310600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6288

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN COPPER EXPORTS

REF: BRUSSELS 00924: LUBUMBASHI 220 (1975 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE PUZZLED BY STATEMENT IN BRUSSELS REFTEL
ATTRIBUTED TO BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO EFFECT
THAT ALMOST ALL OF ZAIRE'S COPPER EXPORTS HAVE TO BE
SHIPPED THROUGH ANGOLA BY BENGUELA-TEIXEIRA DE SOUSA
RAILROAD. IBRD STATISTICS REFLECT THAT ONLY APPROXIMATELY
35 PERCENT OF ZAIRE'S COPPER EXPORTS DURING PAST SEVERAL
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YEARS WERE SHIPPED VIA BENGUELA RAILROAD.

2. SINCE CLOSURE OF BENGUELA RAILROAD ZAIRE HAS BEEN REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL IN EXPORTING ITS COPPER PRODUCTION. RECENT REPORTING INDICATES THAT TOTAL COPPER EXPORTS IN CY 75 WERE 495,310 AS COMPARED WITH APPROXIMATELY 490,000 IN CY 74.

3. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT BENGUELA RAILROAD NOT CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO ZAIRE'S ECONOMY. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT IMPORTANCE DERIVED PRINCIPALLY FROM FACT THAT LARGE PORTION OF IMPORTS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP SHABA MINERAL INDUSTRIES GOING HAVE TRADITIONALLY COME IN VIA BENGUELA ROUTE. USE OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES (E.G., THROUGH ZAIRE, FROM EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA) ENTAILS DELAYS, HIGHER COSTS OR RISKS TO SUPPLY LINES DUE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES.
CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COPPER, EXPORTS, RAILROADS, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA00889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760037-0854
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976012/aaaaabeh.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LUBUMBASHI 220
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRIAN COPPER EXPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, CG
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006